

REMARKS

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claim 1-9 have been pending. Claims 1, 7, 8, and 9 are independent.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-3 and 7-9 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hager (US Patent No. 5,247,661) in view of Shakib (US Patent No. 5,787,262). Both Hager and Shakib are newly cited, and, thus, newly relied upon.

The Examiner rejects claims 4-6 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hager, Shakib, and Domen (US Patent No. 5,504,676).

Claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 are cancelled without disclaimer or prejudice, and claims 1, 4, and 7-9 are amended.

Thus, claim 1, 4, and 7-9 remain pending for reconsideration, which is respectfully requested.

No new matter has been added in this Amendment. The foregoing rejections are hereby traversed.

PRIOR ART

Hager and Shakib

Hager discloses automatically distributing an electronic document within a data processing system in response to a determination of a functional area associated with said document (column 1, lines 29-31). In particular, Hager with reference to FIG. 2, discloses, at operation 50, creating an invention disclosure form, and, at operation 58, creating a profile/functional area ID for the created document. The profile/functional area ID of the document may be input at function code area 116 in FIG. 4A, or automatically determined from an employee profile of a creator of the document in FIG. 5 (see, also column 4, lines 38-63; column 7, line 37 to column 8, line 15). Furthermore, Hager discloses that the document profile/functional area ID as a "document profile" is a collection of data which includes an identification of a functional area associated with an electronic document (column 4, lines 38-63). Hager discloses that the "document profile" is used to automatically distribute the electronic document to an appropriate target. For example, in case of an invention disclosure form, Hager would distribute the form to an attorney experienced in the functional area of the form (column 6, lines 1-14).

Hager also discloses an error checking operation 64 for the created invention disclosure

form (FIG. 2). Therefore, the Examiner alleges that Hager's "document profile" is similar to the present invention's plurality types of attribute information included in an electronic multimedia object for a job, in which the plurality types of attribute information relate to distribution targets of the electronic multimedia object.

Regarding the present invention's attribute information conflict checking, the Examiner admits that Hager does not disclose conflict checking, so the Examiner relies on Shakib. Shakib discloses conflict resolution between different versions of the same data object which are replicated across a computer network (Abstract). In particular, Shakib, in column 24, line 24 to column 25, line 57 and FIG. 6, which is relied upon by the Examiner, discloses conflict resolution of properties of data sets (page 4 of the Office Action). Therefore, the Examiner alleges that Shakib's data set properties is similar to the present invention's plurality of attribute information included in said electronic multimedia objects, and Shakib discloses conflict resolution for the data set properties, which would be similar to the present invention's job electronic multimedia object attribute conflict checking against master attributes. In particular, the Examiner alleges that Shakib and Hager can be combined, because Shakib's data set properties and Hager's document profile are document attributes, and adding Shakib's conflict resolution to Hager's error checking operation 64 (FIG. 2) would provide Hager the advantage of enhancing the checking of the employee files for department/division data assigned to the functional areas and the error checking of document data before transmitting the document as in Hager as well as suggesting rewriting of data if a conflict is found. See, pages 4 and 10-11 of the Office Action. Therefore, the Examiner alleges that Hager's error checking provides the suggestion or motivation to combine Shakib's conflict resolution with Hager.

PRESENT CLAIMED INVENTION

The patentably distinguishing features of dependent claims 2 and 3 are incorporated into the independent claims 1 and 7-9, and, further, the patentably distinguishing features of the present invention are clarified in the independent claims 1 and 7-9. Support for the claim amendments can be found, for example, on page 9, line 21 to page 10, line 21; page 11, line 1 to page 16, line 11; and FIGS. 3, 4, and 5.

In contrast to Hager and Shakib, either alone, or combined, the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 7-9, uses two types of master databases to manage distribution target related attribute information included in job electronic multimedia objects of jobs, as follows: (1) "a master enterprise attribute information storage storing a plurality types of enterprise attribute information to manage distribution targets of each electronic

multimedia object for the jobs, the enterprise attribute information comprise as information on organizations of the enterprise information on at least a corporate organization code and a corporate organization name;" and (2) "a master enterprise job information storage storing job information of the organizations of the enterprise." A benefit of using the first "master enterprise attribute information storage storing a plurality types of enterprise attribute information," is that changes in corporate organizations can be reflected in the job electronic multimedia objects (e.g., changes in the personnel server 30 in FIG. 5 of the present application). A benefit of using the second "master enterprise job information storage storing job information of the organizations of the enterprise," is that changes to an enterprise organization target job to which the job electronic multimedia object belongs are reflected in the job electronic multimedia object (e.g., when a job and its job objects are transferred to another organization within the enterprise, such as changes in the enterprise department server 31 in FIG. 4 of the present application).

Hager and Shakib do not disclose or suggest the present invention's two types of master databases to manage distribution target related attribute information included in job electronic multimedia objects, as follows. Regarding Hager, it does not disclose, suggest, or contemplate either of the present invention's, (1) "a master enterprise attribute information storage storing a plurality types of enterprise attribute information to manage distribution targets of each electronic multimedia object for the jobs, the enterprise attribute information comprise as information on organizations of the enterprise information on at least a corporate organization code and a corporate organization name;" and (2) "a master enterprise job information storage storing job information of the organizations of the enterprise" (claim 1). Hager only discloses an employee file, which is not a master profile of Hager's document profile data, because the document profile data is either input at document creation or determined based upon the employee file, and, further, Hager does not subsequently check the document profile data against the employee file for subsequent changes. Contrary to the Examiner's rationale on page 10 of the Office Action, Hager's employee file differs from the present invention's first and second master databases of "enterprise attribute information ... on organizations of the enterprise information on at least a corporate organization code and a corporate organization name" and "job information of the organizations of the enterprise" (claim 1).

Regarding Shakib, it does not disclose, suggest, or contemplate either of the present invention's, (1) "a master enterprise attribute information storage storing a plurality types of enterprise attribute information to manage distribution targets of each electronic multimedia object for the jobs, the enterprise attribute information comprise as information on organizations

of the enterprise information on at least a corporate organization code and a corporate organization name;" and (2) "a master enterprise job information storage storing job information of the organizations of the enterprise" (claim 1), because in Shakib, the data set properties at the nodes are updated when the data set properties have been changed at the owner node, so that Shakib does not use master attribute information databases. In other words, in column 4, lines 34-56, which is relied upon by the Examiner (page 4 of the Office Action), Shakib discloses a server broadcasting locally made changes to data objects of other servers having a replica of that data object. Therefore, in Shakib, each server receiving changes performs conflict processing and chooses a winner object (column 4, line 57 to column 5, line 39). In contrast to Shakib, however, the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 7-9 for various system configurations, using claim 1 as an example, provides an "electronic multimedia object management apparatus" that checks distribution target related attribute information included in job electronic multimedia objects against two types of master attribute information, thereby having a benefit of central conflict checking. More particularly, Shakib is completely silent on either of the present invention's first and second master databases of "enterprise attribute information ... on organizations of the enterprise information on at least a corporate organization code and a corporate organization name" and "job information of the organizations of the enterprise" (claim 1).

Therefore, both Hager and Shakib do not disclose or suggest the present invention's "master enterprise attribute information" of, for example, corporate organization codes and corporate organization names, from which the corporate organization codes and names included in each electronic multimedia object for jobs can be updated. In other words, clearly, Hager's employee profile is not same as the present invention's "master enterprise attribute information" of corporate organization codes and names included in job electronic documents. In Hager, the document profile is based upon a function area of the document or a function area of an organization in which the creator of the document belongs (column 7, lines 47-65), which differs from the present invention's "enterprise attribute information ... on organizations of the enterprise information on at least a corporate organization code and a corporate organization name" (claim 1). Further, as also discussed below, both Hager and Shakib are silent on the present inventions' second master database, "a master enterprise job information storage storing job information of the organizations of the enterprise," which stores master job information of enterprise organizations from which an enterprise organization to which a job electronic multimedia object belongs can be updated in the job electronic multimedia object.

Regarding the present invention's job electronic multimedia object attribute conflict checking against master attributes, both Hager and Shakib do not disclose or suggest the present invention's claimed conflict checking against two master attribute databases, as follows. First, Hager does not disclose, suggest or contemplate any conflict resolution of its "document profile," because Hager's error checking at operation 64 only checks to determine if all the required data for a complete invention disclosure document has been entered rather than checking the data against master data for conflicts. Furthermore, there is no suggestion or motivation provided by Hager, and it would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, to conflict check the input document profile data of Hager with a master profile, because Hager simply does not contemplate any type of conflict checking for any of its input document profile information, as Hager is not directed to handling changes in profile data of the document, but is directed to distributing the document to a target based upon the input or determined profile data. Significantly, once Hager uses the document creator's employee file as the document profile, the system does not subsequently perform a conflict check for changes in the employee file. Therefore, Hager's error checking at operation 64, which only checks to determine if all the required data for a complete invention disclosure form have been entered, does not provide any motivation to conflict check the input document profile data of Hager with a master profile.

Even if one combined Shakib and Hager, however, Shakib, in column 4, lines 34-56, which is relied upon by the Examiner, discloses a server broadcasting locally made changes to data objects of other servers having a replica of that data object. Therefore, in Shakib, each server receiving changes performs conflict processing and chooses a winner object (column 4, line 57 to column 5, line 39). In contrast to Shakib, however, the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 7-9 for various system configurations, using claim 1 as an example, provides an "electronic multimedia object management apparatus" that checks distribution target related attribute information included in job electronic multimedia objects against two types of master attribute information, thereby having a benefit of central conflict checking. Further, as discussed above regarding the first and second master attribute information used by the present claimed invention, Shakib is silent on the present invention's first and second master databases of "enterprise attribute information ... on organizations of the enterprise information on at least a corporate organization code and a corporate organization name" and "job information of the organizations of the enterprise" (claim 1). Shakib in column 2, lines 59-66, discloses a central conflict checking, but it is not similar to the present claimed invention, because Shakib discloses a central conflict checking in which nodes send conflicts to the central system, and the conflicts among the nodes are resolved centrally. In contrast to

Shakib, however, the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 7-9, using claim 1 as an example, is an “electronic multimedia object management apparatus” that checks job electronic multimedia objects against two types of master attribute information, (1) “a master enterprise attribute information storage storing a plurality types of enterprise attribute information to manage distribution targets of each electronic multimedia object for the jobs, the enterprise attribute information comprise as information on organizations of the enterprise information on at least a corporate organization code and a corporate organization name;” and (2) “a master enterprise job information storage storing job information of the organizations of the enterprise.” A benefit of using the first “master enterprise attribute information storage storing a plurality types of enterprise attribute information,” is that changes in corporate organizations can be reflected in the job electronic multimedia objects (e.g., changes in the personnel server 30 in FIG. 5 of the present application). A benefit of using the second “master enterprise job information storage storing job information of the organizations of the enterprise,” is that changes to an enterprise organization target job to which the job electronic multimedia object belongs are reflected in the job electronic multimedia object (e.g., when a job and its job objects are transferred to another organization within the enterprise, such as changes in the enterprise department server 31 in FIG. 4 of the present application).

Therefore, in contrast to Shakib, the present invention as recited in independent claim 1 and 7-9, using claim 1 as an example, provides:

a determination section managing the distribution targets of the job electronic multimedia objects by determining, according to a predetermined cycle, for each job electronic multimedia object stored in said electronic multimedia object storage section, whether the plurality types of enterprise attribute information included in the job electronic multimedia object and/or an enterprise organization target job to which the job electronic multimedia object belongs conflicts with the master enterprise attribute information and/or conflicts with the master enterprise job information, respectively, if a combination of the at least corporate organization code and the at least corporate organization name of the master enterprise attribute information does not coincide with the enterprise attribute information included in the job electronic multimedia object and/or the enterprise organization target job to which the job electronic multimedia object belongs does not coincide with job information of a corresponding organization of the enterprise in the master enterprise job information ; and

a rewriting section rewriting any of the plurality types of enterprise attribute information included in the job electronic multimedia object when said determination section determines a conflict (claim 1).

Therefore, there is no motivation to combine Hager with Shakib, and even if one combined Hager with Shakib, the combined system would not disclose or suggest the present invention as recited in independent claims 1 and 7-9, in which the document management apparatus uses two master attribute information (i.e., personnel server 30 and enterprise department server 31 as shown in FIGS. 1, 5, and 4 of the present application), to manage distribution targets of the job electronic multimedia object. More particular, in contrast to Hager and Shakib, the present invention as recited in independent claim 1 and 7-9, using claim 1 as an example, provides:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An electronic multimedia object management apparatus in communication with network devices and managing electronic multimedia objects used/produced by the network devices when performing jobs in an enterprise, comprising:

a master enterprise attribute information storage storing a plurality types of enterprise attribute information to manage distribution targets of each electronic multimedia object for the jobs, the enterprise attribute information comprise as information on organizations of the enterprise information on at least a corporate organization code and a corporate organization name;

a master enterprise job information storage storing job information of the organizations of the enterprise;

an electronic multimedia object storage section storing said job electronic multimedia objects that include the plurality types of enterprise attribute information;

a determination section managing the distribution targets of the job electronic multimedia objects by determining, according to a predetermined cycle, for each job electronic multimedia object stored in said electronic multimedia object storage section, whether the plurality types of enterprise attribute information included in the job electronic multimedia object and/or an enterprise organization target job to which the job electronic multimedia object belongs conflicts with the master enterprise attribute information and/or conflicts with the master enterprise job information, respectively, if a combination of the at least corporate organization code and the at least corporate organization name of the master enterprise attribute information does not coincide with the enterprise attribute information included in the job electronic multimedia object and/or the enterprise organization target job to which the job electronic multimedia object belongs does not coincide with job information of a corresponding organization of the enterprise in the master enterprise job information ; and

a rewriting section rewriting any of the plurality types of enterprise attribute information included in the job electronic multimedia object when said determination section determines a conflict.

At least, the Examiner's rationale rejecting now cancelled dependent claim 3 is not appropriate. With reference to FIG. 4 of the present Application, dependent claim 3 is directed

to conflict checking the job multimedia object attribute information against the enterprise department server 31 as another master attribute information, which stores information regarding a corporate unit in charge of a job and the electronic multimedia objects of the job (page 13, lines 1-23; page 14, lines 2-13; and FIGS. 4, 8, of the present Application). Claim 1 is amended so that the second master attribute information recited in cancelled dependent claim 3 is changed for clarity to "a master enterprise job information storage storing job information of the organizations of the enterprise (amended claim 1 and page 14, line 9 to page 16, line 11 of the present application). In other words, in the present claimed invention, if a job electronic multimedia object has been transferred to another corporate entity, the corporate unit attribute information in the job electronic multimedia object is changed to reflect the transfer by referencing the "master enterprise job information."


Accordingly, in view of the claim amendments to independent claims 1 and 7-9 and the remarks, it is submitted that claims 1, 4 and 7-9 are allowable, and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 4, and 7-9 and allowance of claims 1, 4, and 7-9 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,
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